5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

289 of another paper-making industry of a different kind. This is the *ts'ao chih* or *grass paper* as the Chinese call it, though it is really made of bamboo. The bamboo used is a small variety and only the young branches and shoots can be employed. The process is much the same as that just described except that the whole bamboo branch, not its bark only, is used. The sheets are finally pressed between boards and then dried in the sun. This *ts'ao chih* is a coarse brown paper only used for wrapping things in.

285 Still keeping down the Shweli we reached Ch'ü-ch'ih where we found yet another sort of manufacture going on. This is the making of a kind of mat which is famous in this part of China for its softness. They are made of a sort of thin reed. The process is carried out by two persons with a framework of strings stretched vertically. One man catches each piece of reed with a cleft stick and pushes it horizontally through all the strings, alternately under and over. As each reed is put in, the other man presses it down with a piece of wood which runs down the strings, so as to get it tight down on the reed below it.

000 From Ch'ü-ch'ih we went on still in a southerly direction over the range which separates the Shweli from the T'êng-yüeh plain. We had while in T'êng-yüeh noticed a low gap in the N.E. corner of the plain and I was anxious to examine it, as, if a railway was ever made to T'êng-yüeh, this gap would seem to be the best means of extending it further.

I found it fairly practicable, and a line could no doubt be made over it, but I do not think there would be any prospect whatever of a further easterly extension. I look on this part of the range between the Shweli and the Salween as an absolute bar to a railway. There would remain the chance of an extension down the Shweli valley to Nam-kham, but it would be by no means all plain sailing, as the numerous small tributaries of this river, with steep little spurs between them, not to mention occasional gorges, would entail much work in bridging and levelling.

From the T'êng-yüeh plain we turned back northwards and crossing to the left bank of the Shweli returned to Kai-t'ou by a slightly different road from that by which we had come. On our way down I had been obliged to leave

5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

000 one shot from my .303. A lucky shot and the game was very welcome as a relief to perpetual chicken. The breast of this bird cooked like a beefsteak is excellent.

Three more days of hilly going brought us to Lung-ling. The Shweli is crossed by raft at Man-lo ferry, some eight miles short of the town. The Shweli valley here and the hills round it are principally inhabited by Chinamen, but there are a few scattered Shan villages and even some Las. The country was formerly Shan, and many of the villages retain their original Shan names.

At the river I met several officials on their way to settle the position of a new iron chain suspension bridge which they proposed building near here. One of these mandarins had been out with the Boundary Commission last year, and had learnt the accomplishment of shaking hands, a feat which he performed with right or left hand indifferently. He appeared overjoyed to see me, rather to my surprise, as I could not recollect ever having met him before. But it turned out after a little conversation that he had taken me for Jamieson. I do not think there is any resemblance between us, but I suppose all Europeans look much the same to Chinese eyes.

361 Lung-ling stands at a height of 5,200 feet and appears to contain about 800 houses, but the plain it stands in does not measure more than a square mile in extent. It is a poor place compared to T'êng-yüeh, and derives most of its prosperity from trade with Mang-shih (Möng Hkwan), Nam-hkam and other Shan states.

000 From here I purposed striking east by as direct a route as possible to Yün Chou. Mr H. L. Scott, of the Yün-nan Company, had the previous year taken what is considered the main road between these two places, *viâ* La-mêng ferry and Shih-tien; but this makes a considerable circuit to the north. I had heard of another ferry called P'an-chih-hua crossing the Salween lower down, and I determined to make for this place.

287 An easy march on the 2nd December took us to Mêng-
285 mao, a small Chinese plain of four or five villages, where they make a little coarse paper and weave mats out of rushes. This place must not be confused with the big
000 Méng-mao on the Shweli, the Möng Mow of the Shans.

7: Hu I-5 (1934-) 1946 AF16 Southwest China AF16

313 as in the case of Kuang Ying bamboo, to giant tree of well over
137 80 feet in height and with a diameter over 12 inches, as in the case of Nan Chu and Tze Chu bamboos. They often grow in thickets, groves or clumps and usually have a golden, yellow or dark green foliage and with broad sheaths. There are numerous slender stems developed around the large clumps and the principal stems. The stems are hollow inside, have many joints, and often have thick wood which furnishes the most useful part of the plant.

Bamboo has a fairly wide range of habitat and grows well under different kinds of physical conditions.[1] The principal habitats of the bamboo are in alluvial areas near streams, around farmsteads, and not infrequently on sandy soils at the hill slopes.

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285] The usefulness of the bamboo is indeed limitless. First of all, the tender bamboo shoots are used as a vegetable, and serve as one of the most famous Chinese delicacies. The smaller stems are used for paper-making, textile-weaving, making of boxes, baskets, chopsticks, and light house utensils and furniture, whereas the large stems are used for the construction of irrigation wheels, salt brine and gas tubes, boats, bridges, carpentry, and numerous other industrial purposes. All in all, it was once reported that the bamboos are used in more than six hundred different ways in the Basin.[2] Thus the bamboo, to be sure, plays a very important role in the economy of the Basin. Above all, the bamboo, on account of its growths of matted fibrous roots, is proved most effective in holding soil and preventing soil erosion in many hilly areas of the Basin.

There are few large bamboo plantations in the Basin. Most farmers have small patches of bamboo thickets or groves around their farmsteads. The bamboo products are used principally for the farmer's own needs and any surplus left is sold to handicraft manufacturers of the nearby areas.

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[1]Generally speaking, bamboos cannot stand up very well under drought conditions. North of Kuang Yuan, for instance, on account of the lack of sufficient moisture, and possibly also because of lower temperature during the winter, no bamboo is grown (Fig. 8). Also, generally, very little bamboo growths are found around high altitudes of probably over 5,000 feet above sea level in the Basin.

[2]T. F. Hou, "The Conditions of Salt Fields at Tze-liu-ching and Kung Ching, Szechuan," Szechuan Monthly, VIII, No. 6 (1937), 59.